

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 29, 2005. Claims 1 to 16 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,247,623 (Sun). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns control of a printer that receives data over multiple interfaces. According to the invention, a printer has a first interface and a second interface, each of which can receive print data from different host computers. In controlling which interface is operable to receive data for printing, the printer determines whether a request is received by the first interface from a host computer for the printer to provide a device ID of the printer for printing. When such a request is received, the printer transmits its device ID to the host computer connected to the first interface, and at the same time, causes the printer to enter a busy state, before reception of print data from the first interface, in which data is not received from the second interface and print data is received from first interface and printed. As a result, the process for controlling the multiple interfaces is initiated by the printer receiving a *request* from the host computer for the printer to provide its device ID for printing, whereby the printer then enters the busy state.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a printer, having a first interface and a second interface, comprising determining means for determining whether a request from another device to provide a device ID for printing to the other device is received from the first interface, transmitting means for transmitting a

device ID of the printer to the device which transmitted the request and that is connected to the first interface when it is determined by the determining means that the device ID request for printing is received from the first interface, and control means for causing, when it is determined that the device ID request for printing is received from the first interface by the determining means, the printer to enter a busy state in which a printing operation is performed such that data from the second interface is not received and print data from the first interface is received and printed, wherein the control means causes the printer to enter the busy state before the reception of the print data from the first interface.

Amended independent Claims 6, 8 and 10 are method, computer program, and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 16 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a printer, having a first interface and a second interface, comprising a determining unit that determines whether a request to provide printer status information for printing to another device is received from the first interface, a transmitting unit that transmits printer status information of the printer to the device which transmitted the request and which is connected to the first interface when it is determined by the determining unit that the printer status information request for printing is received by first interface, and a control unit for causing, when it is determined by the determining unit that the printer status information request for printing is received by the first interface, the printer to enter a busy status where data from the second interface is not received and print data is received from the first interface and printed, wherein the control unit causes the printer to enter the busy state before the reception of the print data from the first interface.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1,

6, 8 10 and 16, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of, when a printer determines that a request from another device to provide a device ID for printing to the other device (or a status information request for printing) is received from a first interface of the printer, transmitting the device ID of the printer to the device that transmitted the request and causing the printer to enter a busy state in which a printing operation is performed such that data from a second interface of the printer is not received and print data from the first interface is received and printed, where the printer is caused to enter the busy state before reception of the print data from the first interface.

Sun discloses a system having multiple personal computers (PC's) and printers. Each PC (1, 2) has an I/O port 10 to which a transmitter circuit (e.g., TX1, TX2) is connected. Each printer (3, 4) has an I/O port 11 to which a receiver circuit (e.g., RX1, RX2) is connected. Each transmitter circuit (e.g., TX1) monitors the status of the printers on the network and stores status information in a buffer. When a PC wants to transmit a print job to a particular printer, a printer ID is included in the job and the transmitter circuit checks the status of the printer based on the information stored in its own buffer. If the transmitter circuit determines that the printer is available, it transmits the data to the receiving circuit of the selected printer. The receiving circuit of the printer checks the printer ID included in the transmitted data received from the transmitting circuit of the PC, and if it matches the printer's own ID, the receiving circuit provides a busy signal to the transmitting circuit so that the transmitting circuit can transmit data. Thus, Sun's operation is clearly distinct from the presently claimed invention.

In more detail, in the present invention, when the host computer wants to transmit a print job, it first transmits a request to the printer for the printer to provide its device ID for printing. Upon providing the host computer with its device ID, the printer

then enters a busy state so that the interface for which the device ID request was received is made available for the host computer to transmit print data to the printer, while at the same time, a second interface in which data normally can be received from other devices is made unavailable via the busy state. As exemplified in some dependent claims, if the print data is not received from the host computer by the first interface within a predetermined time, then the busy state is released so that other hosts can then transmit data to the printer, via either the first interface or the second interface.

The foregoing operation (as claimed) is clearly distinct from the disclosed operation of Sun. Specifically, Sun's transmitter circuit stores the device ID of the printer and includes it in its transmission to the receiving circuit of the printer. Accordingly, there is no request for the printer's ID by the transmitting circuit, much less that the printer determines that such a request is received, and then provides its device ID to the transmitting circuit in response to the request. Moreover, there is no correlation whatsoever in Sun between the receiving circuit receiving the foregoing request and then entering a busy state in which data can be received by a first interface but not by a second interface. Thus, Sun is clearly distinct from the presently claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not believed to be anticipated by Sun.

No other matters having been raised, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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